

SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

The term *subject-verb agreement* indicates that the subject of a sentence and its verb agree in number, or that the subject and verb are both singular or both plural. If your teacher marks a sentence with a subject-verb agreement error, you have placed either a plural verb with a singular subject or a singular verb with a plural subject. The problem with agreement occurs only when the sentence you write is in present tense, for the singular and plural forms of past and future tenses are the same. When you write in present tense, however, you must make your verb agree with your subject. In other words, if your subject is singular, you must use a singular verb; if the subject is plural, a plural verb. Usually, when nouns end in *s*, they are plural (*girl, girls*). Sometimes making them plural requires a change in spelling (*child, children*). Verbs are just the opposite of nouns. When a present tense verb ends in *s*, the verb is singular. Therefore, a rule of thumb is that, in most situations, only one of the words, either the subject or verb, will end in *s*.

For example: The girl sings. The girls sing.

Read the following sentences and determine whether the verb agrees with the subject. If it does not, correct the verb.

1. The outfits in the store window is very expensive.
2. One of the antique bureaus were valued at over ten thousand dollars.
3. The gold necklace, along with the two pairs of earrings, sell for only two hundred dollars.
4. The leaves of the pear tree is bright green.
5. On the other side of town is a great Chinese restaurant.
6. Everyone who comes in the store usually buy something.
7. Each of the restaurants offers its own unique blend of coffee.
8. The president as well as the trustees dislike the proposal.
9. Determination and discipline is necessary to master a foreign language.
10. Jose is one of those people who is successful at everything.
11. The floor and the ceiling has to be repaired because of the flooding.
12. Until last year grammatical errors, not organization, was the instructor's main concern.
13. The jury was not in agreement on the validity of the evidence.
14. The number of careers Yoshi can enter are large.

